

March 4, 1976

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd agree with every word that Senator Rasmussen said. I would like to see this put to a vote and find out who's talking out of both sides of their mouth here. If this is good for industry, agriculture is a big industry in this State of Nebraska. Let's find out whether they are really talking about bringing industry into the state, or whether we're just trying to finance a certain area of industry.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: I, for a change, agree with Senator Kelly. Yes. But I hope we don't get into detail. I never downgrade myself.

Anyhow in all seriousness, if you notice the very people that lost the first vote are now trying to put an amendment on this bill. Why? To weaken it, we all know that.

Now this did not come up at the hearing, but it has come up at other meetings that I attended. All you hear in the State of Nebraska constantly "Let's develop some industry to balance our agriculture so that we'll be a well-balanced state". Now we have all our eggs in one basket, so to speak. No, it isn't for Omaha. You know Omaha hasn't really.... Your small towns have used this, Senator Duis, ... the present bill to great advantage to develop industry. It hasn't been for Omaha, in fact, it has.... I was here, for your information, when the first one went through. It was ... the greatest groundswell was from the little towns, the little cities that wanted some industry so they could keep the people, especially the high school graduates that graduated, ... industry move in so they'd keep the people from moving out of the state to seek jobs. Let's get a little history in this.

So if there's anybody trying to water ... muddy the water, it's the opponents of the original bill. Now feedlots and things like that have come up, not at the hearing again but, at other meetings I have attended. I don't think that anyone logical in their mind will figure that people are going to get into irrigation and feedlots and support it like they would an industrial project.

Really what you're doing here, if you listen to this thing ... and I know that when you bring up agriculture on this floor a certain amount of people are going to say "Well if it's so good for this, this is the main industry" and all that, I'll agree with you that it's the main industry of the state. I think you found me, as a city person, very favorable towards agricultural interests. But at times we must be logical on a bill like this.

Now it's up to you. Omaha can live without this bill. But I don't know. If some of you smaller towns want to ... and some industrial or commercial developments, you better take a good look at this bill and support it.